

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

- 5 1. In an electronic device having a plurality of installed programs, a method of switching between said plurality of programs, comprising the steps:
- a) determining a jump program from said plurality of installed programs;
- b) storing a program state of a currently running program into a context packet;
- 10 c) releasing temporary memory used by said currently running program;
- and
- d) calling said jump program.
2. A method of Claim 1 further comprising the steps:
- 15 a) creating input data for said jump program based on data in said currently running program.
3. A method of Claim 1 further comprising the steps:
- a) locating a return program context packet corresponding to a return
- 20 program, said return program being one of said plurality of installed programs;
- and
- b) calling said return program with said return program context packet as input, said return program using said return program context packet to restore a program state to said return program.
- 25 4. A method as described in Claim 1 wherein said electronic device is a palm-sized computer system.

5. A method as described in Claim 1 wherein said electronic device is a wireless telephone.

5 6. A method as described in Claim 1 wherein said determining step comprises the steps:

- a) displaying a menu of choices for said jump program; and
- b) responding to user input for selecting one of said choices for said jump program.

10 7. A method as described in Claim 1 wherein said determining step comprises the steps:

a) responding to user selection of a button, said button corresponding to one of said installed programs; and

15 b) using said corresponding installed program as said jump program.

8. A method as described in Claim 1 wherein said storing step comprises the steps:

a) storing a program identifier as part of said context packet, said program identifier corresponding to said currently running program; and

20 b) storing a visual identifier as part of said context packet, said visual identifier used to represent said currently running program; and

c) storing program-specific data as part of said context packet, said program specific representing said program state.

25 9. A method as described in Claim 3 further comprising the steps:

a) responding to user selection of a return button, said return button corresponding a previously running program, said previously running program being one of said installed programs; and

b) using said corresponding previously running program as said return
5 program.

10. In a hand-held personal digital assistant having a plurality of installed programs, a method of switching between said plurality of programs, comprising the steps:

- 10 a) determining a jump program from said plurality of installed programs;
b) storing a program state of a currently running program into a context packet;
c) releasing temporary memory used by said currently running program;
and
15 d) calling said jump program.

11. A method of Claim 10 further comprising the steps:
a) creating input data for said jump program based on data in said
currently running program.

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12. A method of Claim 10 further comprising the steps:

a) locating a return program context packet corresponding to a return program, said return program being one of said plurality of installed programs;
and

- 25 b) calling said return program with said return program context packet as input, said return program using said return program context packet to restore a program state to said return program.

13. A method as described in Claim 10 wherein said electronic device is a palm-sized computer system.

5 14. A method as described in Claim 10 wherein said electronic device is a wireless telephone.

15. A method as described in Claim 10 wherein said determining step comprises the steps:

- 10 a) displaying a menu of choices for said jump program; and
b) responding to user input for selecting one of said choices for said jump program.

15 16. A method as described in Claim 10 wherein said determining step comprises the steps:

- a) responding to user selection of a button, said button corresponding to one of said installed programs; and
b) using said corresponding installed program as said jump program.

20 17. A method as described in Claim 10 wherein said storing step comprises the steps:

- a) storing a program identifier as part of said context packet, said program identifier corresponding to said currently running program; and
b) storing a visual identifier as part of said context packet, said visual
25 identifier used to represent said currently running program; and
c) storing program-specific data as part of said context packet, said program specific representing said program state.

18. A method as described in Claim 12 further comprising the steps:

- a) responding to user selection of a return button, said return button corresponding a previously running program, said previously running program being one of said installed programs; and
- b) using said corresponding previously running program as said return program.

19. An computer system comprising a processor coupled to a bus, a display coupled to said bus and a memory coupled to said bus, said memory having a plurality of installed programs and instructions implementing a method of switching between said plurality of programs, comprising the steps:

- a) determining a jump program from said plurality of installed programs;
- b) storing a program state of a currently running program into a context packet;
- c) releasing temporary memory used by said currently running program;
- and
- d) calling said jump program.

20. A computer system of Claim 19 further comprising the steps:

- a) creating input data for said jump program based on data in said currently running program.

21. A computer system of Claim 19 further comprising the steps:

- a) locating a return program context packet corresponding to a return program, said return program being one of said plurality of installed programs;
- and

b) calling said return program with said return program context packet as input, said return program using said return program context packet to restore a program state to said return program.

5 22. A computer system as described in Claim 19 wherein said electronic device is a palm-sized computer system.

 23. A computer system as described in Claim 19 wherein said electronic device is a wireless telephone.

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 24. A computer system as described in Claim 19 wherein said determining step comprises the steps:

 a) displaying a menu of choices for said jump program; and

 b) responding to user input for selecting one of said choices for said jump

15 program.

 25. A computer system as described in Claim 19 wherein said determining step comprises the steps:

 a) responding to user selection of a button, said button corresponding to

20 one of said installed programs; and

 b) using said corresponding installed program as said jump program.

 26. A computer system as described in Claim 19 wherein said storing step comprises the steps:

25 a) storing a program identifier as part of said context packet, said program identifier corresponding to said currently running program; and

c) storing program-specific data as part of said context packet, said program specific representing said program state.

27. A computer system as described in Claim 21 further comprising the steps:

b) using said corresponding previously running program as said return program.